

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 03524 230849Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 SAM-01 /072 W

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O 230849Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1928

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3524

ANKARA FOR THE SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SP MO

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA

REFS: A. STATE 116051; B. MADRID 3439; C. STATE 113002;

D. RABAT 2409

1. AS AUTHORIZED BY REF A, I GAVE FOREIGN MINISTER  
CORTINA MAY 22 A VERY BRIEF ACCOUNT OF USG DEMARCHE TO  
FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI ON MAY 20 (REF D). I GAVE HIM  
THE ESSENCE OF PARAS 2 AND 3 OF REF C.

2. I THEN NOTED LARAKI'S COMMENT THAT THE KING'S REFER-  
ENCE TO VIETNAMIZATION OF SPANISH SAHARA SHOULD BE SEEN  
IN THE CONTEXT OF MOROCCAN FEAR OF SOME IRRATIONAL  
SPANISH ESCALATION. I THEN NOTED LARAKI'S COMMENTS  
ABOUT GISCARD'S UNDERSTANDING AND SENSITIVITY REGARDING  
MOROCCAN POLICY AND TACTICS ON THE SAHARA.. FINALLY, I  
TOLD HIM THAT MOROCCO BELIEVED IT HAD A GOOD CASE IN THE  
ICJ AND THAT IF THE DECISION CAME OUT THAT WAY, NEXT  
STEP WOULD BE FOR UN TO PRESS FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS  
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PAGE 02 MADRID 03524 230849Z

BETWEEN THE PARTIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF ICJ DECIDED

TO THE CONTRARY, THEN MOROCCO WOULD ACCEPT A REFERENDUM AS LONG AS IT WAS A TRUE EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

3. CORTINA TOOK NOTE OF LARAKI'S COMMENTS AND SAID THAT AS FAR AS THERE BEING ANY SPANISH ESCALATION, THE ONLY THING SPAIN WANTED TO DO WAS TO GET OUT OF THE SAHARA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE FELT THAT THE UN VISITING MISSION, WHICH HAD JUST RETURNED THROUGH MADRID, HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY DESIRE OF THE SAHARIS TO HAVE INDEPENDENCE. GOS WAS TROUBLED BY SOME OF THE MOROCCAN EFFORTS TO STIR UP THE SITUATION AND NOTED THAT 30 MOROCCAN COMMANDOS HAD RECENTLY INFILTRATED INTO THE SAHARA. TEN OF THEM HAD BEEN APPREHENDED CARRYING US "BOMBS". THE SPANISH WERE ON THE TRAIL OF SEVEN OTHERS. THERE WAS SOME EVIDENCE THAT THESE COMMANDOES HAD INFILTRATED THROUGH ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA.

4. ONLY NEW THOUGHT WAS THAT SPAIN WAS NOT CONTENT TO SIT BY AND DO NOTHING UNTIL THE COURT GAVE ITS OPINION IN OCTOBER. IN THE MEANTIME, IT WOULD SEEK TO OBTAIN THE AGREEMENT OF ALL THE PARTIES, WHICH MEANT MOROCCO, MAURITANIA AND ALGIERS, THAT IT HOLD DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN POSSIBLY UNDER UN AUSPICES. PART OF THE AGREEMENT TO HAVE SUCH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE THAT ALL PARTIES WOULD GUARANTEE PEACE AND STABILITY OVER THE SAHARA PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS. SPAIN WAS NOT PREPARED TO HAVE THIS MATTER DRAG ON INTERMINABLY, AND IF NO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES WERE POSSIBLE AND THE ICJ DECISION LED TO NO AGREEMENT ON SELF-DETERMINATION, SPAIN THEN MIGHT WELL DECIDE UNILATERALLY TO TURN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAHARA OVER TO THE UN AND WITHDRAW COMPLETELY.

5. CORTINA SAID SPANISH APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM WOULD BE A GRADUAL AND PHASED ONE, AND HE HOPED THAT THOSE WHO WERE INTERESTED IN PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE NORTH AFRICAN AREA WOULD HELP TO PERSUADE THE PARTIES CONCERNED THAT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ALL THE PARTIES WAS THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED. BUT HE MADE CLEAR AGAIN THAT SPAIN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 03524 230849Z

COULD NOT WAIT FOREVER TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SAHARA SINCE IT HAD NO INTENTION OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN ANY FORM OF COLONIAL WAR.  
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